



State Senator

September 6, 2005

VALDE GARCIA

Serving Shiawassee-Livingston-Southern Ingham counties

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE & BREAKING NEWS

An Informational Bulletin for Residents of the 22nd District

Garcia's

BILL OF THE WEEK!

SB 727: Establishes the Defense and Homeland Security Business Opportunities Office

Senator Garcia introduced legislation this week that creates a new office within the Michigan Economic Development Corporation that would help Michigan business owners acquire federal Department of Defense and Homeland Security contracts.

Under the bill, the office would be required to coordinate their efforts with Michigan's Procurement Technical Centers (PTAC's) and give priority to businesses in counties that have been hardest hit by manufacturing layoffs. The office must also meet a performance objective that will increase federal contracts in Michigan by 25 percent within one year from its opening.

Numerous bills were introduced this week!

Should you wish to learn more about the proposed legislation, please visit www.michiganlegislature.org and enter the bill number where indicated. The website will provide you with the bill's language as introduced and an analysis describing how the bill will affect area industry, the economy and consumers.

Senator Garcia is eager to learn how you feel about proposed legislation. He welcomes your responses via e-mail at senvgarcia@senate.michigan.gov.

Gas price concerns?

If you are a victim of gas gouging or suspect a gas station to be taking advantage of drivers at the pump, you can report the station to the Michigan Attorney General's office at www.michigan.gov/ag.

School Safety Package passes Senate

The senate passed a series of bills last week that will help protect our children while in school, at daycare or while participating in youth-oriented programs.

The bills, House Bill 4402, 4928, 4930, 4932, 4934, 4936, 4937, 4957, 4958, 4991 and Senate Bills 616 and 617, will increase penalties for those offenders who knowingly apply to work for a school, daycare center or a program that is geared toward children. The bills will also make it mandatory to obtain background checks for all employees working in these facilities as well as for those employees who are individually contracted to work at these locations. Included in the package is House Bill 4932. This bill increases criminal penalties for offenders who are required to include themselves on the Sex Offender Registry who are found to be working, living or loitering within 1,000 feet of a school property or other specified zone.

The package also features numerous sentencing guideline provisions and harsher sanctions for offenders who do not comply with mandatory registry updates. The legislation has been sent to the Governor for consideration.